

Patent Claims:

2000/B001 - Ma 1224

1. A method for measuring the aggregation of blood platelets, where a reaction mixture is mixed in a first reaction phase, and is mixed less vigorously or not at all in a second reaction phase following the first, where the measurement is preferably carried out in the second reaction phase.
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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, where the mixing takes place by stirring, shaking, vibrating or ultrasound.
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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 for determining the aggregation of physiologically active blood platelets.
4. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2 for determining the aggregation of fixed blood platelets, in particular in the ristocetin cofactor test.
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5. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, where whole blood, platelet-rich plasma, diluted platelet-rich plasma or purified platelets are employed as sample for the measurement.
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6. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, where turbidimetric or nephelometric methods are employed for measuring the aggregate formation.
- 25 7. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, where electromagnetic methods are employed for measuring the aggregate formation.
8. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, where the mixing time necessary for inducing the aggregation reaction is determined.
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9. The method as claimed in claim 8 for determining the sensitivity of blood platelets to platelet activators such as, for example, ristocetin, collagen, ADP, epinephrine or arachidonic acid.
- 5 10. A method for determining the stability of platelet aggregates, where the aggregation in a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 is compared with an analogous measurement with continuous stirring.
- 10 11. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, where an incubation phase without mixing is inserted before the mixing phase.
12. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, where an initial measurement is determined before the mixing phase.
- 15 13. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12, where the extent of the aggregation is determined by counting the remaining unaggregated platelets.
14. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13, where the aggregation of blood platelets and
20 particles is measured.
15. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14, where in place of blood platelets there is use of other cells, membrane vesicles or artificial particles.
- 25 16. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15, where the mixing is not completely stopped but the mixing is adjusted to a lower intensity.
17. The method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 16, where there is a sequence of a plurality of mixed
30 and unmixed phases.